Monazite Companies in Travancore.

356. **MR. M. SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI** (*Agastisvaram*) : (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the different monazite companies that were working in the State are now neither working nor exporting monazite?

(*b*) Have the Government any information as to the causes that have led to the stoppage of work by the different companies, and if so, what are they?

(*c*) Do these companies regularly pay to the Government the minimum dues according to the agreements entered into by them; if they have defaulted and failed to keep to the terms of the agreements, will the Government be pleased to take immediate steps to collect the arrears of dues and also to terminate the agreements entered into?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The companies are mining monazite, but are exporting the same only in small quantities.

(*b*) There is no stoppage of work. The reason for the decline in export is that there is very little demand for monazite in the European markets.

(*c*) The Travancore Minerals Company has paid its dues up to the end of the commercial year 1920-21 and Messrs. Hopkin and Williams Ltd. up to the end of the commercial year 1923-24. These two companies have asked for a moratorium and their request is under consideration. The question will be considered as a general one and it is hoped that a working arrangement will be devised so that the industry can be kept alive in the joint interests of the Government and of the firms concerned. A revision of the terms of the lease will also be considered. From Messrs. E. J. John and K. Chandy, a sum of Rs. 18,000 is due for the first commercial year ending the 17th September 1925. This sum they have been asked to pay. As regards Mr. E J. Philipose, he has mined only 301 tons which fell short of the minimum fixed, *viz.*, 500 tons, by 199 tons. The penalty fixed is Rs. 60 per ton on the deficiency. As there is no workable deposit of monazite in the area leased out, he has requested that he may be exempted from the payment of penalty. This too is under consideration.

Local Committees on the Working of the Police Department.

357. **MR. G. RAMAN MENON** (*Mavelikara* cum *Karthikapalli*): With a view to make the working of the Police Department more beneficial to the people, will the Government be pleased to appoint local committees with a non-official majority to report regularly to the Government on the work of the police officers within the areas concerned?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): The Government do not consider that the appointment of such committees is a necessary or workable arrangement.

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MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Are not the respectable people of the localities the chief persons that are most intimately interested in the proper working of the local police?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): It is purely a matter of opinion.

The Mission Dam.

358. **MR. M. SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI** (*Agastisvaram*): (1) Are the Government aware that some years back they decided upon the removal of the Mission Dam put up across the Pazhayar near the village of Tamaracolam?

(2) If they are aware, will they be pleased to state when that decision was arrived at and why the dam was not removed till now according to that decision?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (1) Yes.

(2) It was decided to remove the Mission Dam in 1915; but this has not been effected and the order is held in abeyance as there were objections against the removal of this dam from the Excise Commissioner on the ground that such a course would accelerate the silting of the Manakkudi lake near the salt factories and thus injuriously affect the manufacture of salt.

MR. M. SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI (*Agastisvaram*): Are the Government aware that, on account of allowing the dam to exist, the village of Tamaracolam is endangered?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The information is noted.

Opening of a Sub-Registrar's Office between Haripad and Kayankulam at Mutukulam.

359. **MR. G. RAMAN MENON** (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*):

(*a*) Are the Government aware that the number of documents registered in the Kayankulam and Haripad Sub-Registrars' offices is so large that a new Sub-Registrar's office can, for the convenience of the people, be opened at a place about midway between the two offices?

(*b*) Are the Government aware that the Mutukulam *pakuthi* occupies a central position with reference to the *pakuthies* of Arattupuzha, Cheppad, Kirikad, Chingoli, etc., and that for the use of these *pakuthies* and of Mutukulam, a new Sub-Registrar's office can be sanctioned?

(*c*) Are the Government aware that, in the interests of the people of the Arattupuzha *pakuthi* which lies on the sea coast on the western side of the Kayankulam backwater, it is more convenient to locate the Sub-Registrar's office in the Mutukulam *pakuthi* than in more eastern ones, such as Cheppad, etc?

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to open a Sub-Registrar's office at Mutukulam, as early as convenient?

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